

REMARKS

The Official Action raises a number of issues with respect to the present application. As detailed below, each of these issues is specifically addressed and the corresponding objections and rejections are therefore overcome. As such, reconsideration of the present application and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Official Action objects to the Declaration for failing to identify the citizenship of each inventor. By way of background, the present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/241,399 which has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,324,517. Since the present application is a continuation application, a copy of the Declaration from the parent application need only be submitted. See, for example, MPEP § 602.05(a). In this regard, the initial Declaration submitted in the parent application failed to identify the citizenship of one of the inventors, namely, Craig Martin. A copy of this Declaration filed in the parent application that failed to identify the citizenship of Craig Martin is enclosed. A Supplemental Declaration was then filed in the parent application that was executed by both inventors and that identified the citizenship of each inventor including Craig Martin. A copy of the Supplemental Declaration filed in the parent application is also enclosed. By submitting the original Declaration and the Supplemental Declaration from the parent application, the requirement for a Declaration in the present application is hereby satisfied. Moreover, the supplemental Declaration submitted in the parent application and a copy of which is enclosed herewith identifies the citizenship of each inventor. As such, the objection to the Declaration for failing to include the citizenship of each inventor is therefore overcome.

The Official Action also objects to the drawings and, in particular, to Figure 9 for failing to include reference legend 915 and for failing to include the -- yes -- and -- no -- legend relative to decision block 910. Proposed drawing corrections for Figure 9 are submitted under separate cover herewith. These proposed drawing corrections add reference legend 915 as well as the -- yes -- and -- no -- legends with respect to decision

block 910. As noted by the Official Action, the paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16 provides support for the proposed drawing corrections for Figure 9 such that the proposed drawing corrections do not introduce any new matter. Based upon the proposed drawings corrections to Figure 9, Applicants submit that the objection to the drawings is therefore overcome.

The Official Action also objects to the disclosure. In this regard, the Official Action states that the continuing data on page 1 should be updated. As such, the initial paragraph of the application has now been amended to reflect the issuance of the parent application as U.S. Patent No. 6,324,517.

The Official Action also notes that the specification fails to explicitly call out reference legend 470 from Figure 4. As shown in Figure 4, the reference legend 470 is used in conjunction with the planner and facility user agents. These planner and facility user agents are designated with reference legends 200 and 300, respectively, throughout the specification. See, for example, Figure 2 and the corresponding description on page 8, line 15-page 9, line 2 with respect to the planner user agent and Figure 3 and the corresponding description on page 9, lines 3-12 with respect to the facility user agent. Accordingly, proposed drawing corrections to Figure 4 have been submitted under separate cover herewith to replace reference legend 470 with reference legends 200 and 300 in order to be consistent with remainder of the disclosure.

Finally, the Official Action notes that the paragraph on page 19, lines 8-17 of the present application incorrectly utilizes reference legends 1110 and 1100. As such, this paragraph has been amended to correctly reference the browser with reference legend 1100 and to correctly reference the map with reference legend 1101. As explained above, each of the objections to the specification has now been addressed and overcome.

The Official Action rejects Claims 21-26 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting over Claims 1-29 of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,517. Since this rejection is based upon non-statutory double patenting, a terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith. As such, the rejection of Claims 21-26 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting is therefore overcome.

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With respect to independent Claims 25 and 26 directed to a computer readable medium and a computer system, respectively, the step of “defining minimum requirements for a select meeting facility” has been amended to recite “receiving minimum requirements for a select meeting facility” to better reflect the actions undertaken by the computer program instructions. Applicants submit, however, that amended independent Claims 25 and 26 are patentably distinct from the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as set forth by the Official Action in conjunction with original Claims 25 and 26.

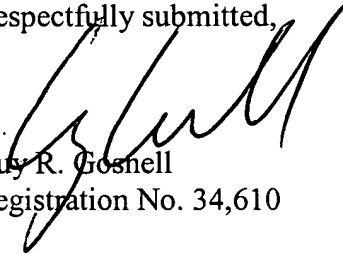
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CONCLUSION

In view of the proposed drawing corrections, the amended specification, the submittal of the terminal disclaimer and the remarks presented above, Applicants submit that all the Claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

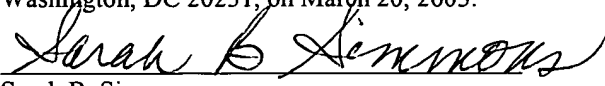
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on March 20, 2003.


Sarah B. Simmons

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made:

In the Specification

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 as follows:

This is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/241,399, filed February 2, 1999 and issued November 27, 2001 as U.S. Patent No. 6,324,517 and claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application no. 60/115,521, filed January 12, 1999, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 19, lines 8-17 as follows:

Fig. 11 is an image of the user interface through which the meeting planner enters a list of attendees and their corresponding originating locations. Browser [1110] 1100 displays the DHTML image from application server 400. The meeting planner uses map [1100] 1101 by clicking on the state that the attendee(s) originate from, and selecting the nearest office or airport to the attendees in that state. A dialog box (not shown) queries the user for the number of attendees coming from that location. Box 1102 lists the attendees selected and their originating locations. As shown, seven attendees have been entered: four from California, four from Corpus Christi, Texas, and three from Naples, Florida. The meeting planner presses the next button 1104 when all the attendees have been entered.

In the Claims:

Please rewrite Claims 25 and 26 as follows:

25. (Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions that when executed by a processor causes the processor to evaluate a plurality of potential meeting facilities by:

[defining] receiving minimum requirements for a select meeting facility;
transmitting the minimum requirements to an application server; and

receiving a ranked list of meeting facilities, each facility being ranked based on all-inclusive cost-calculation corresponding to an estimated total cost of holding the meeting at the meeting facility,

wherein the meeting facilities included in the ranked list are selected from a set of potential meeting facilities based on at least one of a preference and a geographic location.

26. (Amended) A computer system comprising:
- a processor;
 - a network connection; and
 - a memory, the memory including instructions that when executed by the processor evaluate a plurality of potential meeting facilities by:
 - [defining] receiving minimum requirements for a select meeting facility;
 - transmitting the minimum requirements to an application server; and
 - receiving a ranked list of meeting facilities, each facility being ranked based on all-inclusive cost-calculation corresponding to an estimated total cost of holding the meeting at the meeting facility,
- wherein the meeting facilities included in the ranked list are selected from a set of potential meeting facilities based on at least one of a preference and a geographic location.